



From Tor Fiscale to the Park of the Aqueducts

Park of the Aqueducts / Park of the Tor Fiscale

This itinerary explores two large public green areas and focuses on the interesting theme of water. Starting at Tor Fiscale, named after a Medieval watchtower, follow the two main aqueducts that cross this part of the suburbs since Roman times. The *Acqua Felice*, built at the end of the 16th century over the ruins of the *Aqua Marcia-Tepula-Iulia*, and the majestic archways of the *Aqua Claudia*, surmounted by the *Aqua Anio Novus*, are the beautiful attractions in the nearby Park of the Aqueducts. The landscape is further patterned and brought to light by old farmhouses and the remains of Roman villas, besides the centuries-old pine trees and the Fosso dell'Acqua Mariana waterway.

Plan this itinerary around the opening hours of the Tor Fiscale Park.

Poi

- 1 Tor Fiscale Park
- 2 The Tor Fiscale Aqueducts
- 3 The "Torre del Fiscale" Tower
- 4 Casale Ristoro
- 5 Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 6 The Villa of Vignacce
- 7 Fosso dell'Acqua Mariana (Aqua Claudia - Anio Novus)
- 8 Aqua Marcia, Tepula, Iulia - Aqua Felice (Viale Appio Claudio)
- 9 Park of the Aqueducts (Viale Appio Claudio)



Scan the QrCode to access the navigable mobile version of the itinerary

Poi 1



Info

Opening hours:

Everyday from sunrise to sunset.

Address

Via dell'Acquedotto Felice - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station PORTA FURBA walk along Via dei Levis and enter to the nearby entrance in Via Lucio Mario Perpetuo

Tor Fiscale Park

Roma / Place to visit - Natural area

The Tor Fiscale Park is a green area covering about 11 hectares in the Archaeological Park of the Appia Antica. This rural area is scattered with numerous historical and archaeological remains bearing witness to centuries of history. The Park features the remains of Roman villas, impressive aqueducts, old farmhouses built along the ancient Via Latina, which once led from Rome to the city of Capua. Its name comes from Monsignor Filippo Foppi, who once served as "fiscale", as the Treasurer of the Papal States was known, and who purchased a tower here in the middle of the 17th century. The landscape is characterised by the two aqueducts that cross it. The longest stretch belongs to the Aqua Marcia, built in 144 BC, over which the conduit of the Aqua Tepula was superimposed in 125 BC, followed by the Aqua Julia in 33 BC. Between 1585 and 1587 pope Sixtus V, whose birth name was Felice Peretti, re-used the ancient arches to carry the new Aqua Felice, designed to supply water to the Viminal and Quirinal districts of Rome. The other arches, made of blocks of tufa stone and brickwork, belong to two other aqueducts that run one on top of the other, supported by the same piers, the Aqua Claudia superimposed by the Aqua Anio novus, erected in AD 38 by Caligula and inaugurated by Claudius in AD 52.

The Park also contains several underground structures, ancient caverns used as air raid shelters during World War II and, more recently, as mushroom farms. Traces of Roman villas with bathhouses may be seen near the old farmhouses, which have been refurbished and today host refreshment and information points. In particular, near the entrance is the Casale Museum hosting cultural events, exhibitions, workshops for children, conferences and info centres. During the renovation works the remains of a Roman villa dating to the 1st-2nd century AD were discovered and may now be admired by visitors in an underground exhibition space.

Poi 2



Address

Via di Torre Branca - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station PORTA FURBA exit at Via Tuscolana walk along Via dei Levis and enter the PARK from Via del Quadrareto.

The Tor Fiscale Aqueducts

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

You are now in the green area called Tor Fiscale, a public park criss-crossed by the impressive remains of several Roman aqueducts, such as the Aqua Claudia and the Aqua Marcia, which cross paths at the Torre del Fiscale, a watchtower built in the Middle Ages and visible from a distance, and then run separately again. The southernmost of these two aqueducts, which is also the best preserved, is the *Aqua Marcia*, erected in 144 BC by a Roman magistrate called Quintus Marcius Rex, while serving as praetor. At 91 km, it is the longest of the Roman aqueducts and ran from the upper Aniene Valley to Porta Maggiore, on the outskirts of the ancient city. In the space of just over a century a further two aqueducts were superposed on the *Aqua Marcia*, beginning in 125 BC with the *Aqua Tepula*, and then in 33 BC the *Aqua Iulia*, which sourced water from mainsprings located near the modern-day towns of Grottaferrata and Marino. Then, at the end of the 16th century the arches of the *Aqua Marcia* were demolished and the piers used as foundations for a new aqueduct, the *Aqua Felice*, named after Felice Peretti, the birth name of pope Sixtus V, elected in 1585. Opposite this aqueduct runs the *Aqua Claudia*, begun by the emperor Caligula in AD 38 and completed by his successor Claudius in AD 52. In this case the water was sourced from two mainsprings of crystal clear water located near Marano Equo and Arsoli, which today lie on the border between the regions of Lazio and Abruzzo. After running for about 68 km, of which 16 km above ground, supported by arches and bridges, and passing through the city of Tivoli, it ended at Porta Maggiore, where it branched into smaller channels supplying water to various districts of the ancient city, such as the Caelian and Palatine. The enormous piers, many of which have survived and are up to 28 metres tall, and the conduits inside which the water ran, are built of large square blocks of tufa stone. The *Aqua Anio Novus*, instead, sourced water from the nearby river Aniene, whose Latin name was Anius. Long stretches of the conduit are made of brick and it was superposed on the *Aqua Claudia*, running together for most of its length.

Poi 3



A Address

Vicolo dell'Acquedotto Felice
459 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station
PORTA FURBA exit for Via
Tuscolana walk for 10 minutes
along Via del Levii and enter the
PARK from Via del Quadraretto.

The “Torre del Fiscale” Tower

Roma / Place to visit - Towers

The tower was built at the 4th mile of the Via Latina, where the Marcius and Claudius aqueducts intersect for the second time forming a square-shaped area of two hectares. This space was famously used by the Goths, during their siege of Rome in 537 AD (hence the name “Field of the Barbarians”), and many other times since, as a military camping site.

The tower – situated in the north-eastern corner of the Field of the Barbarians – was part of a fortified structure built in the 13th century by the Annibaldi family to control the Via Latina, while its current name comes from Filippo Foppi, the Pontifical Treasurer (also known as “fiscale”), who bought the property in the 17th century.

The structure, 30 metres tall, has a square ground plan and is built of alternating courses of tufa stone and bricks. The outside walls are pierced by rectangular windows and arrow-loops. The interior originally comprised three vaulted floors, of which only the uppermost ceiling remains



Info

Opening hours:

Open by reservation only, on
Friday, Saturday, Sunday -
Holidays.

A Address

Via dell'Acquedotto Felice -
Parco di Tor Fiscale - Roma
(RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station
PORTA FURBA exit at Via
Tuscolana then walk along Via
dei Levi and enter the park
from Via del Quadraretto

Phone

06 7612966

Casale Ristoro

Roma / Place to visit - Casali

This building, at a short distance from the Casale Museo, is one of the many old farmhouses scattered in the area. During the renovation work, the remains of a Roman villa from the Imperial period were unearthed, with baths, which are partially visible beneath a glass panel on the ground floor. Today, the building houses a refreshments point, cultural events and conferences.

Poi 4



A Address

Via Alessandro Viviani - Roma
(RM)

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Roma / Place to visit - Churches

The church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a Romanian Orthodox Church commissioned, in 2001, by the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate in Italy. The interior of the church was radically altered in 2007, with the addition of the altar and the iconostasis, which, in Eastern Christianity, consists of a wall of icons and religious paintings (icons) separating the nave from the sanctuary and featuring 3 doors, the middle one, called the Holy Door, being directly in front of the altar and which can be used only by the celebrant (priest or bishop) and, at times, by the deacon. The icons include the image of the Virgin of the Incarnation and Christ Pantokrator (the

Poi 5

🚩 How to get

From METRO LINE A station LUCIO SESTIO exit to via Lucio Sestio then walk for 10 minutes.



📍 Address

Parco degli Acquedotti - Roma (RM)

🚩 How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA walk along Viale Giulio Agricola and enter the PARK.

all-powerful), the Eucharist, the Annunciation, the Four Evangelists, the 12 Apostles and the Prophets of the Old Testament, besides several other icons depicting the liturgical feasts celebrated in the church.

Poi 6

The Villa of Vignacce

Roma / Place to visit - Roman Bathb

The so-called “Villa of Vignacce”, located inside the Park of the Aqueducts, is one of the largest villas found in the suburbs of Rome. It was built on an artificial hill dominating the surrounding countryside, at the 4th mile of the Via Latina, to which it was connected with a private road. The owner of the villa, identified by means of the brick stamps and lead pipe inscriptions, was Quintus Servilius Pudens, a wealthy brick-maker, who built it between AD 125 and 130, during the reign of the emperor Hadrian, with luxurious residential quarters, gardens with monumental fountains and waterworks and private baths. Today, only the baths remain, featuring a vast round domed building surrounded by smaller rooms. Pottery jars were included in the concrete of the domed roof to reduce its weight, a construction technique that was widely used, especially in the monuments built at the time of the emperor Constantine, in the first half of the 4th century AD.

The archaeological excavations carried out on the site of the villa have revealed that it continued to be used well into the 6th century AD, albeit with alterations and for different purposes. The digs have unearthed a number of beautiful artworks, such as a statue of Aphrodite, the Chiaramonti Ganymede, the Tyche of Antiochia and a colossal portrait of Julia Domna, wife of the emperor Septimius Severus, preserved today in the Vatican Museums. During the archaeological campaign undertaken in 2009 by the Rome Superintendence, in partnership with the American Institute for Roman Culture, an extraordinary statue of the satyr Marsyas was found, who challenged Apollo to a contest of music and lost his hide and his life, skinned alive by the god. The multi-coloured statue is preserved in the Centrale Montemartini Museum in Rome.

Poi 7

Fosso dell'Acqua Mariana (Aqua Claudia - Anio Novus)

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

In 1122, pope Callixtus II ordered the construction of this waterway, known as the Fosso (or Marrana) dell’acqua Mariana, parallel to the *Aqua Claudia* aqueduct. It was built to supply water to the city, and especially to the area of the Lateran Basilica, because most of the Roman aqueducts, in particular the Aqua Claudia, had either been badly damaged or abandoned. From the headsprings at Squarciarelli (near Grottaferrata), the Marrana crossed the Park of the Aqueducts, the area of Tor Fiscale and, exploiting the natural lay of the land and following the route of the ancient aqueducts, eventually reaching the Asinaria Gate, where it powered water mills and formed a pool; from here it continued to the Metronia Gate, before flowing into the Tiber near the church of S. Maria in Cosmedin.

The canal was crossed, here and there, by characteristic bridges which, together with the surrounding Roman remains, are featured in the many landscapes of the Roman countryside painted between the 17th and 19th centuries. The name Mariana seems to come from the *Fundus Maranus*, an area known as Morena today, where the water was channelled underground, near the Villa of the *Centronii*, using an old conduit belonging to the *Aqua Claudia*. *Marianus* then became Mariana and, finally, Marrana, which is still used as a synonym of stream or ditch in the environs of Rome. Today, it is the most important tributary of the river Almone.



📍 Address

Viale Appio Claudio - Roma (RM)

🚩 How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA walk for 300 metres along viale Giulio Agricola. In via Lemonia there are numerous entrances to the Park.

Poi 8



Address

Via Lemonia - Parco degli
Acquedotti - Roma (RM)

How to get

From Metro A fermata GIULIO
AGRICOLA walk to a Via
Lemonia.



Info

Free admission.

Address

Viale Appio Claudio - Via
Lemonia - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station
GIULIO AGRICOLA and then
walk to Via Lemonia.

Aqua Marcia, Tepula, Iulia - Aqua Felice (Viale Appio Claudio)

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

This is the entrance to one of the most spectacular stretches, thanks to the presence of several well-preserved aqueducts.

The *Aqua Marcia* aqueduct was built in 144 BC by the pretor *Quintus Marcius Rex*. At 91 km long, it is Rome's longest aqueduct, running from the upper Aniene Valley to Porta Maggiore. In the space of just over a century a further two aqueducts were superimposed on the *Aqua Marcia*: the *Aqua Tepula* in 125 BC and the *Aqua Iulia* in 33 BC, from springs in the hills of Grottaferrata and Marino.

At the end of the 16th century, the arches of the *Aqua Marcia* were destroyed and the piers were used to support the *Aqua Felice* aqueduct, named after Felice Peretti, who was elected pope, in 1585, as Sixtus V.

Poi 9

Park of the Aqueducts (Viale Appio Claudio)

Roma / Place to visit - Natural area

The Park of the Aqueducts covers an area of about 240 hectares in the Appio Claudio district, between Via delle Capannelle and the Rome-Cassino-Naples railway line and is all that remains of the once open tract of Roman countryside that extended all the way up to the Alban Hills.

It is named after the impressive remains of six of the eleven aqueducts which, in ancient times, supplied water to the city of Rome: the *Aqua Anio vetus* built between 272 and 269 BC, the *Aqua Marcia* of 144 BC, the *Aqua Tepula* built in 125 BC, the *Aqua Iulia* of 33 BC, the *Aqua Claudia* and *Anio novus* inaugurated in AD 52. The Park is also crossed by a canal called the Marrana dell'*Aqua Mariana*, the construction of which was ordered by pope Callixtus II in 1122 to supply water to the Lateran Palace in Rome.

The last aqueduct to be built here was the *Aqua Felice*, between 1585 and 1587, adapting the ruined structures of the *Aqua Marcia*. It was named after the reigning pope Sixtus V, whose birth name was Felice Peretti. The Park is also the site of the remains of the Villa delle Vignacce, a Roman villa dating to the 2nd century AD, built by Quintus Servilius Pudens, along with historical buildings such as the Casale di Romavecchia and Casale del Sellaretto farmhouses.